



Control Number: 51812



Item Number: 189

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14 March 2021

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Re: Texas Deep Freeze™ Power Distribution Snafus

What is going on?

Why the disparate power distribution during the Texas Deep Freeze™? The political posturing, virtue signaling for renewables and vilifying burning fossil fuels helped deliver the final knockout for Texas.

The distribution and reliability need immediate attention and with swift remedy – hurricane season is coming. And the typical political blame game and Monday morning quarterbacking won't solve this complex dynamic nor address the pain of collective losses, stress and mental anguish.

Notwithstanding state-wide needs, there are unique situations that need priority attention:

- Creekstone (~6 miles southeast of downtown Katy)
- Midtown (adjacent and south of downtown Houston)
- Fifth Ward (~2 miles northeast of downtown Houston)

As an aside, one wonders how the activists for renewables feel now; especially those that reside in the hardest hit areas of Texas that found themselves on the receiving end of their own 'go green' fervor.

Creekstone

The intentional power discrimination constantly cripples and stresses the majority of Creekstone residents. For 35 years and counting. Event after event. We are long tired of it. The lack of equitable power distribution during the Texas Deep Freeze™ was the last straw.

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No power for ~55¹ hours that saw a ~2-hour respite of restored power after the initial ~12-hour outage. Debris piles scattered throughout Creekstone along with sightings of plumber vehicles and requests on social media for assistance attest to the mismanagement of providing reliable power.

Rolling blackouts, the de rigueur stated ad nauseum by pundits across power providers, politicians and media, clearly bypassed Creekstone. Adding insult to injury...water flow became a trickle on Day 3 of the extended power outage. [We bailed water from our pool as needed. Think of the majority without a pool.]

Neighbors reported indoor temperatures ranging from upper 30s to low 60s. Luckily for us, we are undergoing renovations. We burned all scraps plus yet-to-be-used wood plus paperback books and recycle materials to keep our house tolerable in the low 60s. Eventually, we had to buy more wood to burn. Hypothermia and potential damages from freezing pipes were always on our minds. [Think, too, of the majority who had no other heat source. Our eldest son and his fiancé, along with some of our friends, are in this group.]

Yet not surprisingly the far west portion of Creekstone had power – *like it usually does*. So did the surrounding subdivisions and businesses – *like they usually do*. Only a portion of businesses were without power for a relatively short time. Ditto the far west section of Creekstone and the surrounding subdivisions.

Our friends throughout the greater Houston metropolitan area experienced very limited power outages and water interruption. None of which, though, compared to the magnitude Creekstone [and Midtown and Fifth Ward] experienced.

Key questions concerning Creekstone:

1. Why does Creekstone nearly always get punished with outages that the surrounding subdivisions and businesses have the luxury to mostly avoid?
2. Why does Creekstone have the relatively high frequency of blown transformers during heavy usage?
3. Why weren't the rolling blackouts meted out equitably such that Creekstone could have had at least, say, 4 hours of uninterrupted power, say, every 8-12 hours?
4. Why, given the tons of operating data held by local power providers, has the Creekstone power system lack-of-reliability during heavy system loads never been remedied...in over 3 decades?

Midtown

One family member lives in Midtown. Indoor temperature dropped to 49F by Tuesday evening. Late Tuesday night, I retrieved this person to join us in Katy to avoid potential hypothermia because no wood readily available to burn and provide sorely needed heat.

Based on the rate of indoor temperature drop since the initial extended loss of power, their indoor temperature easily dropped to the upper 30s sometime Wednesday morning.

I noticed, too, the unmistakable stark contrast between downtown Houston and Midtown [and Fifth Ward]. Downtown was lit up like Las Vegas at Christmas...while Midtown [and Fifth Ward] was covered in abject darkness. Don't recall seeing or hearing downtown ever losing power; while Midtown [and Fifth Ward] had one or two very brief moments of restored power.

Fifth Ward

Other family live in Fifth Ward. Indoor temperature dropped into the upper 30s by Wednesday. No power period of ~66 hours. Longest stretch no power ~26 hours. A few minor but short-lived reprieves. Water flowed to a trickle and stopped

¹ All values herein close approximations; actual values will differ. Magnitude and trends are nonetheless relevant and troublesome.

Key questions concerning Midtown & Fifth Ward:

1. Why was downtown Houston permitted to have power and given an exemption to the severity of rolling blackouts that impacted other locations; especially those adjacent to downtown?
2. Why wasn't the rolling blackouts meted out equitably such that Midtown and Fifth Ward could have had at least, say, 4 hours of uninterrupted power, say, every 8-12 hours?

The readiness for the Texas Deep Freeze™ and power distribution were clearly mismanaged on a massive scale. Over reliance on renewables, non-winterized equipment and gaming the system cost lives and added to the stress of an economy slowly on the road to recovery.

Coupled with the Biden Executive Orders that opened the floodgates at our southern border, allowing more refugees, etc., the load on the Texas power system will rapidly increase throughout the Biden Administration.

We demand the answers and actions to remedy these deplorable situations...and not political double-speak, deflection, etc. and shallow platitudes.

Texas is better than this.

But is Texas (looking to you 'leaders') ready to meet the challenge?

We need the right actions and changes implemented to avert another power system failure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Ruggiero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Ruggiero" clearly distinguishable.

Michael Ruggiero
Creekstone, Katy

PS: We worked in the upstream energy sector for over three decades. Well aware of the complexities delivering from wellhead to burner.